



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/765,007

01/26/2004

Timothy C. Schooler

SHO002USPT03

1292

23403

7590

05/20/2005

SHERRILL LAW OFFICES

4756 BANNING AVE

SUITE 212

WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110-3205

EXAMINER

OLSON, LARS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3617

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,007

Applicant(s)

SCHOOLER, TIMOTHY C.

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

EA

MC

DETAILED ACTION

1. A notice of withdrawal from issue was mailed on April 25, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crisp (US 2,678,018).

Crisp discloses the same personal watercraft as claimed, as shown in Figures 1-6, said watercraft being comprised of a hull, defined as Part #10, with a deck, defined as Part #17, having an upper planar surface, a bow, defined as Part #12, a stern, defined as Part #11, port and starboard sides, a longitudinally extending overall length, as shown in Figure 1, a laterally extending beam, as shown in Figure 5, a pair of pontoons, defined as Part #15, that are laterally and longitudinally repositionable independent of each other between a storage position and a flotation position, as shown in Figures 2 and 5, a pair of starboard side connector links, defined as Part #16, a pair of port side connector links, defined as Part #16, and a means for releasably retaining said pontoons at a fixed lateral and longitudinal location, defined as Parts #34 and 37,

where said pontoons are shifted aft from said storage position into said flotation position, as shown in Figure 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crisp.

Crisp, as set forth above, discloses all of the features claimed except for the use of a deck that provides at least 16 to 20 square feet of surface, a watercraft with pontoons having a storage position maximum width of 3 to 4 feet, a maximum length of 6 to 8 feet, and a maximum transverse height of 1 to 3 feet.

The use of a watercraft having a deck surface of at least 16 to 20 square feet would be considered by one of ordinary skill in the art to be a design choice that is based upon the deck space required to accommodate a fixed number of persons and cargo aboard said watercraft.

The use of a watercraft having pontoons with a storage position maximum width of 3 to 4 feet, a maximum length of 6 to 8 feet, and a maximum transverse height of 1 to 3 feet, would also be considered by one of ordinary skill in the art to be a design choice

Art Unit: 3617

that is based upon the required size of said pontoons in order to provide a desired amount of buoyancy to said watercraft.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to utilize a watercraft having a deck and pontoons with specific dimensions in combination with the personal watercraft as disclosed by Crisp for the purpose of providing a watercraft having sufficient deck space to accommodate persons and cargo, and pontoons for increased flotation and stability.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 12-33 are allowed.
7. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

May 17, 2005

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
5/17/05